

The Feline Forum

June/July 2006



CARING FOR HOMELESS CATS SINCE 1945

Microchipping offered as new adoption benefit

Lost cats may have an extra ray of hope through a new program offered at Cat Welfare. In partnership with local animal shelters, Cat Welfare will microchip all cats and kittens at the shelter, giving an added benefit to those interested in adopting a cat companion for their family.

Starting in July, each cat will receive an identification microchip injected just under the skin between the shoulder blades. The HomeAgain® Pet Recovery Service microchips are proven safe and sterile, and are implanted with a syringe similar to those used for vaccinations and other shots. A hand-held scanner will

read the chip as it is passed over the cat's skin. Each cat will also receive a bright yellow identification tag to display on their collar once they are adopted. HomeAgain® offers a 24/7 Recovery Service for those who have lost their pets. The program will help in identifying lost cats, hopefully reducing the amount of stray cats ending up in animal shelters.

Cat Welfare adoption fees of \$60 for adult cats and \$70 for kittens will remain the same with the added service. The cost of the program is underwritten with funding from Community Shares of Mid Ohio donors and Moyer Financial Group.

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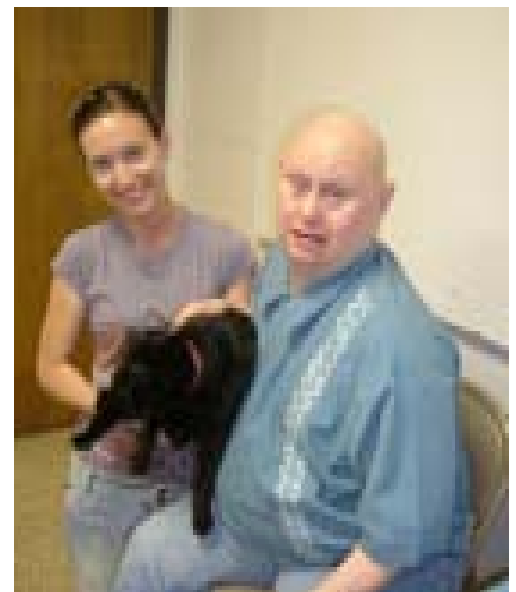
ARC visitation program hosted by volunteers

First hesitant to have a cat on his lap, Bobby quickly warmed up to the company of Sampson. Sampson, along with three other cats, recently visited employees at ARC Industries North during a monthly CWA outing.

ARC provides vocational training and job opportunities to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. As one of four area workshop facilities, ARC North employs 300 people, the majority doing assembly work and other projects for organizations such as Kohl's, Tupperware and local hospitals.

During the last nine months, CWA volunteers have visited ARC employees with cats from the shelter. Volunteers spend about 15 minutes with groups of 5-6 ARC employees. Each employee visits for a few minutes with the cat of his or her choice, holding the cat themselves or petting the cat held by a volunteer.

"This program is great for our volunteers who want to help others in the community," said Gail Harbert, CWA volunteer coordinator. For more information on this program, contact Gail at Jrhda@aol.com.



ARC employee Bobby and CWA volunteer Kristen spend time with "Sampson" during a recent Cat Welfare visit to the workshop.

Our Mission

Cat Welfare Association is dedicated to the care of and education about cats and kittens. Our pledge is to cherish, nurture and provide veterinary care for homeless, abused, injured and abandoned felines. We strive to find each cat an appropriate, safe and loving home, allowing those not placed to live their lives in the care and comfort of our shelter.



**741 Wetmore Road
Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 268-6096
www.catwelfareohio.com**

The shelter is open seven days a week from 11:00 am - 3:30 pm (closed 1st Wednesday for cleaning)

Adoption fee of \$60 for adult cats and \$70 for kittens includes spay/neuter surgery, initial vaccinations including rabies, testing for feline leukemia and FIV (adults), microchip identification, flea treatment & deworming.

The shelter has established an Altering Fund to subsidize spay/neuter surgeries for cat owners with limited incomes. Contact 268-6096 for an application.

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Stories from the sun porch

“This is Gold Eyes, your roving journalist reporting from the 2006 Cat Welfare Open House.

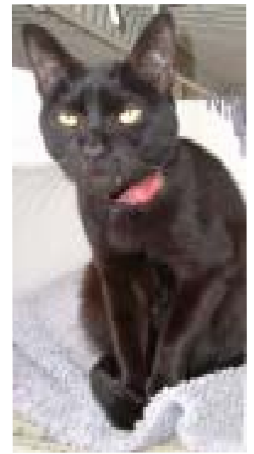
Under the guise of a recovery room cat napping in a towel-lined basket, I took in the sights and sounds of the big day at the shelter. It started early for a Sunday (we like to sleep in you know!) with the hustle and bustle of cleaning by the staff and volunteers. Made me tired just watching them!

Right after our lunchtime food trays, the place stood still. Then in came all the visitors! People of all sizes petting us and ohhing and ahhing over our digs in the back. I just squinted my eyes looking cool and nonchalant.

I kept hearing them talk about what a great day it was. Some said they ate a delicious lunch outside under the sunny sky, listening to some guy play a keyboard on a bike (I haven't figured that one out yet). The little people talked about the fun games they played, tossing cans and basketballs around. Some looked just like us with paint on their faces, and others brought in these fun toys they made to play with us.



A serious shopper stops to appreciate the art work at the 2006 Open House.



Gold Eyes,
2006 Top Cat

And our paintings. I knew walking around in that wet stuff had something to do with it. The big people were talking about this painting and that painting, looking around the room for the artists. Several of my admirers paid me due homage, letting me know how talented I was (like I didn't already know).

They were all happy to buy a painting because they sold out so quickly. I heard they made over \$1,100 on our terrific artwork. That'll pay for a bundle of spay/neuter surgeries.

The place finally cleared out. All was quiet again. After taking some long naps, I heard the cats say they had a fun time too. And they hoped just as many visitors would be at next year's big day.”



Jonathan Harbert takes part in the face painting activity for kids.

If you can't beat them, then satisfy them: Dealing with destructive scratching

Just when the delivery men leave, you spy innocent Noodles heading over to the new sofa. Before you can say "cat-scratch fever," he's scratching away to his heart's content. Argh!

Noodles is not alone: most healthy cats love a good scratch. And for good reason: scratching helps them shed old nail sheaths, mark territories and express content and pleasure. But before furniture, wallpaper and curtains are destroyed, both cat and human must reach an understanding to keep a harmonious household.

Dealing with destructive scratching requires two approaches: providing appropriate places to scratch, and redirecting inappropriate behavior. There are many cat products on the




market tuned into cat scratching: carpeted cat trees with sisal legs, flat and inclined scratching posts, scratching boards to hang on the door knob. In fact, Noodles would prefer stable to fancy: a vertical surface with a sturdy base to prevent tipping over, and wrapped with sisal from the hardware store. Make sure the surface is tall enough for him to reach up and stretch, and anchored to support his weight. And a little catnip sprinkled or rubbed onto the scratching surface will encourage him to mark his scent and return again and again.

After you've provided the good, it's time to deal with the bad: redirecting the inappropriate scratching. This involves some training. Using a spray bottle, give Noodles a squirt of water every time he's caught scratching the

June is Adopt-a-Shelter- Cat Month

**Encourage your
friends, co-workers
& neighbors to add
a special family
member today!**

wrong item. Take him to the preferred place and rub his paws up and down on that surface. Non-toxic repellent sprays and sticky strips applied to the inappropriate surfaces are also available. It doesn't hurt to trim the cat's nails or apply soft nail caps to the claws.


Before long, Noodles will get the hint and scratch on his new post while leaving the off-limit areas alone. 

Mobile spay/neuter clinics making a difference

Reaching out to the areas where cat overpopulation is greatest is the goal of a new spay/neuter clinic program sponsored by Cat Welfare. Two mobile spay/neuter units hosted by the shelter will alter multiple cats at each visit to under-served areas.

Dr. Laura Miller, owner of the NOMAD/MASH Unit, visited Cat Welfare on April 15 to alter cats in her mobile clinic. The unit is an RV custom-built to hold two surgery tables and a bank of 10-15 cages. The unit is fully equipped to do spay/neuter surgeries and vaccinations in rapid fashion. Dr. Miller performed 16 surgeries during the visit.

The Rascal Mobile Unit performed 35 surgeries during a May 12 clinic held at the Buddhist Center in the Franklinton area of Columbus. The new self-contained mobile unit, operated by Dr. Michelle Gonzalez, offers surgeries, vaccinations and flea treatment to cats, dogs & rabbits. Operations are performed by Dr. Gonzalez, and each animal is monitored during and after surgery by trained staff. The animals go home that day with instructions for owners.

Support for the clinics is provided by Cat Welfare's Altering Fund and Community Shares of Mid-Ohio donors. 



Dr. Laura Miller of NOMAD operates on a cat during the spay/neuter clinic on April 15.



Cats line up for surgery at the May 12 clinic.

Happy Homes for CWA Cats



Tommy lives with the Blinn family. In mid October 2005, my two young sons and I walked into a Petco just for fun to see the store's animals. CWA happened to be just inside the door with two women and a bunch of adorable kittens. My boys were instantly drawn to them. I had been

considering another cat for a long time, and so to make a long story short, after about an hour or so, we went home with a new kitten. I claimed he was a fifth anniversary gift for my husband, but he knew better. I was the one who was smitten. My boys are huge Thomas the Tank Engine fans, so when I asked them what we would name him, they quickly said 'Thomas!' I convinced them that we should call him Tommy, a much cuter name for a tiny kitten. He is such a wonderful addition to our family! We already had Calvin, an all-white, huge, five-year-old cat. Calvin wasn't as thrilled as we were with the new kitten, but they are somewhat amicable now. Thank you Cat Welfare for the caring service you provide!"

Aiko was adopted by Vicky Sealock. "I rolled into Cat Welfare one day toward the end of 2003. I noticed a little tux in the bottom cage of the far wall who had her back to the public. Once to her cage, I slid down my wheelchair to the floor, and opened her enclosure. She didn't move. I petted her on her back. I asked what her story was, finding out that she had



been adopted as a kitten only to have been returned as a young adult because she had never gotten over a fear of dogs. She was so timid that she always turned her back to the public at Cat Welfare 'not presenting herself well.' I went to Cat Welfare twice a week at that time—each time I petted her until finally she began turning to the front of her cage every time I came in. Even though I had two cats at home, I knew at Christmas I had to have her. She was so feminine and delicate, and I wanted a name to reflect this. My sister read from a 'Names' book. 'Aiko' was the first name in the Japanese list, meaning 'little loved one'—from that point on, she was known as Aiko. She would come out only when we were alone; I came to refer to her as my special little angel. In 2004, we adopted a Siamese male from Siamese Rescue—Aiko and Red soon became best buds—they constantly snuggle together and lick each other. When her brother, Shaolin (also from Cat Welfare), competes for my attention—she gently swats at him! Aiko is so darling and so loved, I can't thank Cat Welfare enough! She is such a special little angel—she brings joy to my life every day!"



Guinness resides with Melaine Stiver & Matthew Murphy. "I was adopted by Matt and Melanie a year and a half ago and let me tell you, life has been great since!!! I just love lounging around with mom in front of the fireplace reading a good book, or snuggling with dad on the couch watching sports (I'm a HUGE Buckeye fan!). I show my love and affection to everyone and I AM the king of our house! Thank you Cat Welfare for helping me find such a perfect, loving home, where I can run around and be my crazy little self!"



Lumpy was adopted by Laci Bloomfield. "Lumpy is all settled in here and doing great! He is such a sweet boy. He uses the litter box consistently as long as I scoop it after each time he goes. He just likes a clean toilet and I can't say that I blame him! He's been so playful with his mouse toys and wakes me up at 6am to get his breakfast. He is such a great joy to my life and I thank you all for being so helpful with the adoption."

Happy Homes for CWA Cats



Jonathan lives with Steve Priest. “I just wanted to let everyone know that Jonathan is doing so well. He seemed to have a cold in his chest, and the runny eye was probably part of that also. Regardless, the vet got him fixed up and he looks great! Me and him are the best buddies, and he doesn’t get too far away from me when I am home. I can honestly say that he is the most affectionate cat I have ever had!”

Thanks for everyone being patient with me while I looked at ALL the cats for several weekends, until I knew that Jonathan was going to be my new buddy, and I was able to bring him home. I included some pics so everyone can see how good he looks now.”

Khatt (top) & **Dinah** (bottom) live with Valerie Snavely and her mother, Marjorie Kurson. “Khatt was seven months old when she went to live with (us) following the death of 15-year-old Kitty, who also was adopted from Cat Welfare. Khatt turned out to be extremely intelligent, quickly learning to open cupboard doors, retrieve toys and initiate ‘conversations.’ Now four, she’s the feline equivalent of a juvenile delinquent - stealing and hiding small items, and getting into everything. When Kitty died, we adopted a cage in her memory. Last summer we stopped at Cat Welfare to drop off some items and as usual, checked Kitty’s cage. Inside was one tiny, forlorn-looking black cat with huge, round eyes. She’d only been at Cat Welfare for two days. So, we ended up leaving with a new sister for Khatt. She was renamed Dinah and is a very loving, sweet-natured, Velcro kitty. Although probably seven years old, she looks more like a large kitten. Khatt wasn’t thrilled to meet Dinah (and vice versa!) but they soon became good friends and now chase each other throughout the house. Although Dinah never gets into trouble, she’s a one-feline cheering section for Khatt’s escapades!”



Scooter (left) & **Merlin** (right) live with the Iven family. “Thank you for our new beloved furballs! They’re a hoot and oh, so cute!”



Brunhilde reigns superior in the Fleming household. “We adopted ‘Elle’ for Valentine’s Day and she is a constant delight. Her new name is ‘Brunhilde’ because she looks like a Viking princess in a Wagner opera. Thanks to Cat Welfare for providing us with a wonderful cat companion.”

Send your “Happy Homes” photo(s) and short story (100 words or less) to the editor at “Happy Homes” c/o Cat Welfare; 741 Wetmore Road; Columbus, OH 43214, or online at catwelfarecats@yahoo.com.

View these and many more “Happy Homes” stories at our web site: www.catwelfareohio.com.

Ishie Memorial Fund

for care of long-term shelter residents

Donna Boiman "In loving memory of the beautiful Baby Babu"
Rosemary Bringardner "In memory of all Bringardner
animals, gone but not forgotten"
Gloria Yurgellites
Debbie Lipkowitz "In memory of Callie"
Bertha Ihnat "In memory of Carol A. Potter"
Marty Montgomery "In memory of Storm, always loved -
now and forever"
Charles Minshall
Shirley Stone "In memory of Pumpkin"

The Vincent Fund

for emergency care for shelter cats

Julianne Hunter
Diana Fisher "In memory of Mary Ann"
Effie Weldy
CURB Inc.
Barbara Bates & Geri Walsh "In memory of Juneau and Molly
Reiner"
Linda Whittle "In memory of a dear friend, Ruth Ertel"
Brett & Rona Gilbert
William & Shirley Waclo
Elsie & Paul Blei

Spay/Neuter Fund

for assistance with the spaying/neutering of shelter cats

Michael Weingard
Bertha Ihnat
Lynn Straley
Patricia Eiben
Judith Pfaltzgraf
Effie Weldy "In memory of Max Weldy"
CURB Inc.
Elsie & Paul Blei

Bequests & Endowments

Richard F. Hutchins
Arvilla Kennedy

Special Thanks!

Thank you to **Phyllis May** and **Fay Jones** for all of their efforts in our No More Mother's Day Event. They posted fliers, collected applications and transported cats.

A big thank you to **Ed Powers and the Columbus KTC Buddhist Center** for the use of their parking lot during the May 14 No More Mother's Days clinic.

Best wishes to **Libby** and **Grace** as they graduate from high school this year. They have been wonderful, reliable Saturday cleaners.

Our appreciation goes to **Hannah Beeley** for collecting \$128 from her neighborhood, and to **Sally & Sophie Sugar** for raising \$1,003 during their Spring Fling party.

Thanks to the **Ohio Roller Girls-All Girls Flat Track League** for donating a portion of the proceeds from their May 14 bout. Way to go roller girls!

Thank you to **The Ohio State University SERV Team** and **garage sale volunteers** for their landscaping help.

Mucho gracias to **Wild Oats Natural Marketplace** for providing the cookout lunch and collecting \$261 in donations. Thank you to **Danyll Rougeux and Fresh Step** for the \$600 donation. And thank you to the **CWA staff** and **volunteers** who helped with Open House event.

Important Shelter Information

Between January - April we adopted **277** cats to loving homes.

Between January - April we subsidized **215** spay and neuter surgeries through our Altering Fund.

Interested in volunteering for Cat Welfare? Join us on **July 6** and **October 5, 2006** for an introductory volunteer session. Please RSVP at least five days prior as seating is limited. Call or mail your name and contact

information to the shelter, or send an e-mail message to Gail Harbert, volunteer coordinator, at Jrhda@aol.com to register. We hope to see you there!

Shelter Wish List: *Canned and dry cat food!!*, tall kitchen trash bags, clay litter, baby food (chicken or turkey), paper towels, bleach, brown paper bags, liquid hand soap, KMR (kitten milk), dry kitten food, Clorox wipes, Science Diet dry cat food, plastic cat toys.



We make
friendships
for life!

AGENT 61 (#26361)

“Agent 61 is my name and that is a fact. As you can see, I’m a handsome, sleek, male adult cat. I’m a couple years old, already neutered, and I have been at the shelter since March 2005. I also have a twin brother whose name is Agent 60. Sometimes my brother and I work as a team and other times we like to work solo. Personally, I like to see everything that is going on in the shelter. My inquisitive nature has made me one of the staff favorites. I love being held and adore giving lots of love back. I don’t mind being brushed and I like being around the other cats. Recently, when one of our Guardian Angel cats, Montgomery, celebrated her 15th birthday I took it upon myself to check out her birthday cake and make sure it had not been tampered with. A quick jump and run through the cake revealed that everything was safe and the party could continue. My quick actions received many a laugh from the staff and partygoers.”

Visit other Special Adoptions cats online at www.catwelfareohio.com.

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Columbus, OH 43214
741 Wetmore Road



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